

Message Text

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON NEW ADMINISTRATION

REF: MOSCOW 17460 NOTAL

1. NOVEMBER 7 IZVESTIYA ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTED BY ENGLISH TASS AND MOSCOW AP AS SOVIET STEP TOWARD CARTER IS A PIECE ENTITLED "USA: CHANGES AND CONTINUITY" BY IZVESTIYA'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT KONDRASHOV. LIKE PRAVDA NOVEMBER 6, IT PICKS UP ON STATEMENTS IN PRESIDENT-ELECT'S NOVEMBER 5 PRESS CONFERENCE ASSURING ALLIEES AND FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, "AND THOSE WHO ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES AND WITH WHOM WE HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS --

THE SOVIET UNION, THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC AND ALL THE REST"
--THAT U.S. WILL STRIVE FOR PEACE.

2. KONDRASHOV GOES FARTHER, HOWEVER, TO STRESS THAT "IN THE GENERAL VIEW," RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND USSR SHOULD "IN GENERAL" CONTINUE IN THE "POSITIVE DIRECTION" CHARACTERISTIC OF RECENT YEARS; TO NOTE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S "FREQUENT" STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR DETENTE; AND TO ARGUE THAT IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS IS BASED ON "REAL CORRELATION OF FORCES IN WORLD" AND "MINIMUM OF POLITICAL REALISM." CENTERPIECE OF ARTICLE IS ACCOUNT OF POST-ELECTION INTERVIEW WITH MARSHALL SHULMAN, WHOM KONDRASHOV FOUND OPTIMISTIC IN SPEAKING OF A "NEW START" IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, BEGINNING WITH SALT. KONDRASHOV THEN GOES ON TO CRITICIZE FORD ADMINISTRATION FOR PUTTING BRAKES ON SALT PROCESS SINCE 1974 IN ORDER TO PLEASE REAGAN AND MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX. HE CONCLUDES BY QUOTING NEW YORK TIMES AND WALL STREET JOURNAL SUPPORT FOR CONTROLLING ARMS RACE AND STOPPING NUCLEAR ARMS BUILDUP" "CARTER'S ADVISORS," THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WRITES, "HOPE FOR RAPID AGREEMENT WITH THE RUSSIANS ON FURTHER LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMAMENTS," AND "JUSTIFYING SUCH HOPES," WRITES KONDRASHOV, "IS IN THE INTEREST OF OUR TWO PEOPLES, OF THE PEOPLES OF ALL COUNTRIES, IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE IN THE WHOLE WORLD."

3. COMMENT. IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED THAT KULAKOV'Z FAVORABLE (IF ELLIPTICAL) REFERENCE TO U.S. ELECTION OUTCOME (REFTEL) WOULD BE RAPIDLY REFLECTED IN SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE. KONDRASHOV IS PERFECTLY CONSISTENT WITH KULAKOV, ESPECIALLY IN HIS FOCUS ON SALT. AT THE SAME TIME, BY SOIVET STANDARDS REACTION HAS COME AT HIGH SPEED.
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